

was a well-known member of the Cobbs Creek community, where he was a baseball coach for the Cobbs Creek Cubs, as well as a mentor, Scout leader and surrogate father to many of the community's youth.

Madam Speaker, Officer Johnson's light was extinguished on June 13th, but the light he has shared with others burns ever so brightly. His loving family, friends, and community will miss him very much. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the condolences of the House to his family. I hope that they find comfort in the knowledge that his time on Earth was well spent and that he left the world a better place than the one he found.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE  
OCHSENREITER

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**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gene Ochsenreiter, a friend, athlete, and community leader. Mr. Ochsenreiter passed away in February of this year, and was honored at the 50th anniversary of the Western North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame Banquet recently.

Western North Carolina lost a sports giant in February. Mr. Ochsenreiter was the captain of the University of Maryland men's basketball team in 1941, and also ran with the University's track team. He was also the 1/2 mile champion in the Southern Conference and Junior National AAU Championships. In Asheville, he won numerous golf championships at the Country Club of Asheville. In 1988, he was inducted into the Western North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Ochsenreiter was a leader on and off the court. In 1958, Mr. Ochsenreiter founded the Mountain Amateur Athletic Club in Western North Carolina. Twenty years later in 1978 Mr. Ochsenreiter helped to found the Western North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame to honor western North Carolina high school and college athletes and teams. During his tenure with the WNC Hall, Mr. Ochsenreiter expanded the scope of the Hall to include all sports, as well as the Special Olympics and academics. He was a firm believer that students should put their academics before their sports career, and this was reflected during his time with the WNC Hall of Fame.

Serving on the Asheville City Council and as a one-time mayor of Asheville, Mr. Ochsenreiter's contributions to Western North Carolina are endless.

As a member of the WNC Hall of Fame, I thank Mr. Ochsenreiter for his dedication and commitment to the Hall during his fifty years of service. He will be missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Gene Ochsenreiter.

REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR  
AND THE U.S.-KOREA FREE  
TRADE AGREEMENT

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker. Today marked the 58th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. Five years after the Second World War ended in the Pacific, a new conflict erupted, the first major engagement of the forces of communism and the forces of freedom in the Cold War period.

By the time the armistice was signed almost 3 years later, millions of Koreans had been killed, wounded or displaced from their homes, whole towns and villages had been destroyed, and the entire peninsula was plunged into poverty. More than 36,000 American soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who served in the Korean War lost their lives.

It has been my privilege to represent hundreds of Korean War veterans who live in my district in Brooklyn and Staten Island. I have come to know personally many of these brave and heroic constituents.

Although many of these Korean War veterans are reaching old age, they live vibrant lives, contributing to our community in countless ways. The sacrifices they made across an ocean helped form their characters, which guided them through college and careers, as they raised their families and built their businesses, indeed, as many of them became political and community leaders themselves.

In the years since the Korean War came to a close, South Korean soldiers have fought alongside Americans not only in Korea but in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In fact, South Korea sent the third-largest contingent of armed forces to Iraq among all the countries that have participated in that conflict.

Korea has often been described as an "economic miracle." Fifty years ago, South Korea was an impoverished, Third World country perceived as having few prospects for survival, much less potential for affluence. Today it has the world's 11th-largest economy, known for its high-technology industries. It is the 7th-largest trading partner of the United States.

It is no wonder, therefore, that almost exactly a year ago, on June 30, 2007, negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea concluded a Free Trade Agreement that now awaits approval by Congress and the South Korean National Assembly before it is fully implemented.

In a recent report, the U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the United States by over \$10 billion annually. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers to the South Korean market.

In the past week, the United States and South Korea signed a protocol regarding the importation of U.S.-originating beef to Korean markets. As anyone who reads the newspaper knows, this issue has been politically volatile in South Korea. U.S. and South Korean trade

negotiators deserve a great deal of credit for their delicate handling of this situation. It is my understanding that American beef exports to Korea will recommence within the next few days.

While the beef import issue seemed to be an obstacle to approval of the Free Trade Agreement, the overall advantages to both our countries that will ensue from the agreement have prevailed. And this is a good thing, a healthy thing for American workers and American consumers, and for Koreans, too.

With growing uncertainty about the health of our economy, it is critically important that we make every effort to spur U.S. economic growth and create new American jobs through securing access to markets in which U.S. farmers and businesses can compete and succeed. The proposed U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement stands to further increase U.S. exports to Korea and will generate new jobs for Americans.

Madam Speaker, it has been nearly six decades since the outbreak of the Korean War and we must "never forget" the sacrifices of our Korean War veterans. As we commemorate this somber occasion, let us look forward to the opportunities the future will bring as the U.S.-Korean friendship and economic partnership is broadened, deepened, and strengthened. The U.S.-Korea relationship deserves to be celebrated, and I ask my colleagues to join in offering their own expressions of support.

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SUNSET MEMORIAL

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**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is June 25, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,937 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson